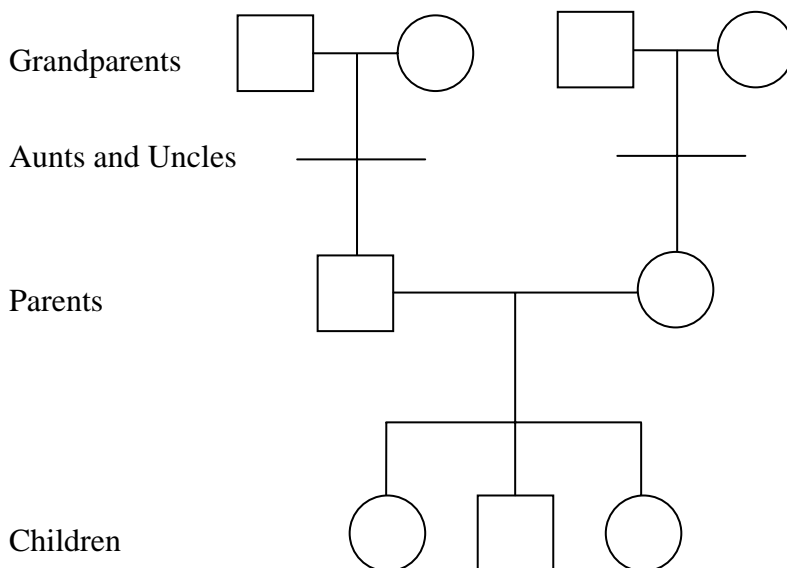


**Annex 9**  
**Constructing a genogram**

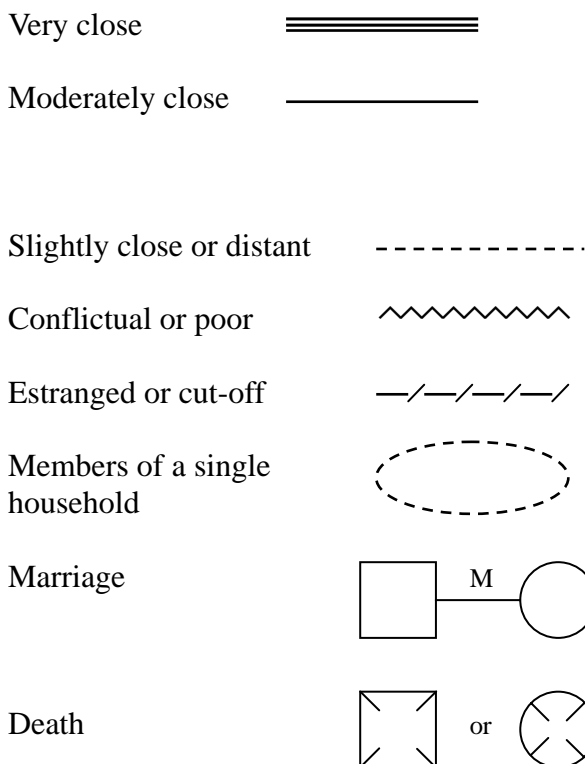
(I) Blank genogram

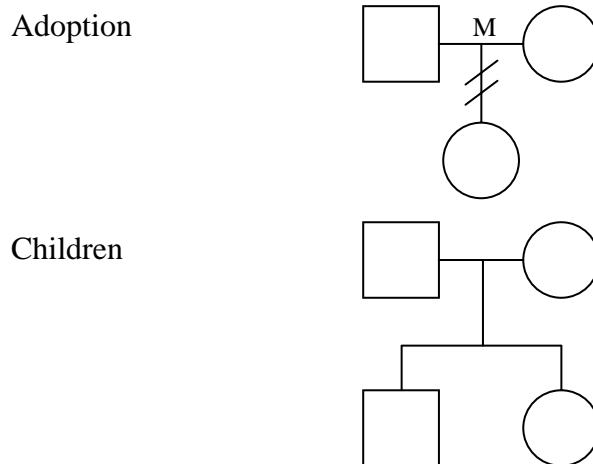


(II) Common genogram symbols



Type of relationship or attachment:





### (III) Constructing a genogram

B. Thomlison (2002) suggested some practice guideline in constructing a genogram, which are summarized below:

- (1) Drawing three generations of the family and get as much information as possible about the family's membership.
- (2) At the end of the interview, go back to the genogram to let the family comment on it or add more information.
- (3) Individual family members are the experts on their family system.
- (4) The genogram can be referred to as a "family tree".
- (5) The family can provide any information they feel comfortable with and they do not need to answer any question they have no information or they do not want to talk about.
- (6) The family members can tell or draw about their family members in the order they choose.
- (7) The genogram can be coloured according to the family's interpretation.
- (8) Always start with the least threatening questions.
- (9) When the family have difficulty in remembering dates, asking related questions would be helpful, such as, "Were you in Form 3 by that time?"
- (10) Asking family members questions that help them think about themselves in relation to their family, such as, "who would you call if you had a problem?"
- (11) Begin with the immediate family members before going into the extended family. Take alternate turn between husband and wife when asking about their family of origin. Then the couple can both contribute to the interview. Sidetracking and overwhelming of information should be avoided.
- (12) In order to distinguish the current household, draw a circle around its members.

Source:

Thomlison (2002). pp.59-63.